

**What is claimed is:**

- 1           1.    An input module, comprising:  
2           a base;  
3           a post disposed on the base; and  
4           a touchpad movably disposed on the post,  
5           perpendicular thereto.
- 1           2.    The input module as claimed in claim 1, further  
2           comprising a frame disposed on the base surrounding the  
3           touchpad moving therein.
- 1           3.    The input module as claimed in claim 1, further  
2           comprising a scissors-type support mechanism disposed  
3           between the base and the touchpad.
- 1           4.    The input module as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
2           the touchpad comprises a plurality of defined character  
3           areas.
- 1           5.    The input module as claimed in claim 4, wherein  
2           the touchpad comprises a touch-sensitive defining the  
3           character areas.
- 1           6.    The input module as claimed in claim 5, wherein  
2           the touch-sensitive input surface comprises a plurality  
3           of alphanumeric character areas.
- 1           7.    An operating method for an electronic device  
2           with a monitor, comprising the steps of:  
3           providing an input module having a base with a post  
4           and a touchpad movably thereon, wherein the  
5           touchpad comprises a touch-sensitive input

6                    surface with a plurality of defined character  
7                    areas;  
8                    contacting the touchpad within a defined character  
9                    area; and  
10                   pressing the touchpad.